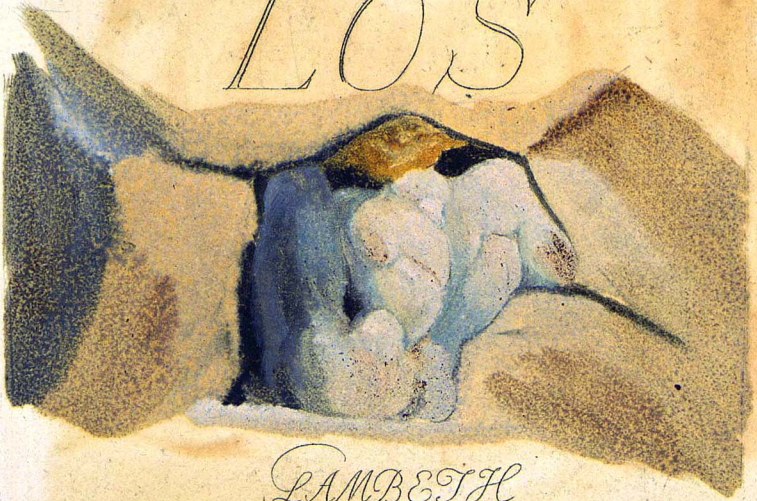
The Book of Los



Lambeth
Printed by Wm Blake 1795

Chap. (I)

1: Eno aged Mother.
Who the chariot of Leutha guides.
Since the day of thunders in old time

2: Sitting beneath the eternal Oak
Trembled and shook the stedfast Earth
And thus her speech broke forth.

3: O Times remote!
When Love & Joy were adoration:
And none impure were deemd.
Not Eyeless Covet
Nor Thin-lip'd Envy
Nor Bristled Wrath
Nor Curled Wantonness

4: But Covet was poured full:
Envy fed with fat of lambs:
Wrath with lions gore:
Wantonness lulld to sleep
With the virgins lute.
Or sated with her love.

5: Till Covet broke his locks & bars.
And slept with open doors:
Envy sung at the rich mans feast:
Wrath was followd up and down
By a little ewe lamb
And Wantonness on his own true love
Begot a giant race:

6: Raging furious the flames of desire
Ran thro' heaven & earth, living flames
Intelligent, organizd: armd
With destruction & plagues. In the midst
The Eternal Prophet bound in a chain
Compelld to watch Urizens shadow

7: Raged with curses & sparkles of fury
Round the flames roll as Los hurls his chains
Mounting up from his fury, condensd
Rolling round & round, mounting on high
Into vacuum: into non-entity
Where nothing was! dashd wide apart
His feet stamp the eternal fierce-raging
Rivers of wide flame; they roll round
And round on all sides making their way
Into darkness and shadowy obscurity

8: Wide apart stood the fires; Los remaind
In the void between fire and fire
In trembling and horror they beheld him
They stood wide apart, drivn by his hands
And his feet which the nether abyss
Stampd in fury and hot indignation

9: But no light from the fires all was

Dark

Darkness round Los: heat was not: for bound up
Into fiery spheres from his fury
The gigantic flames trembled and hid

10: Goldness, darkness, obstruction, a Solid
Without fluctuation. hard as adamant
Black as marble of Egypt; unpenetrable
Bound in the fierce raging Immortal.
And the seperated fires froze in
A vast solid without fluctuation.
Bound in his expanding clear senses

Chap: II

1: The Immortal stood frozen amidst
The vast rock of eternity: times
And times: a night of vast durance:
Impatient, stifled, stiffend, hardned.

2: Till impatience no longer could bear
The hard bondage. rent: rent the vast solid
With a crash from immense to immense

3: Crack'd acrols into numberless fragments
The Prophetic wrath, strugling for vent
Hurls apart, stamping furious to dust
And crumbling with bursting sobs: heaves
The black marble on high into fragments

4: Hurl'd apart on all sides, as a falling
Rock: the innumerable fragments away
Fe'll asunder; and horrible vacuum
Beneath him & on all sides round.

5: Falling, falling! Los fell & fell
Sunk precipitant heavy down down
Times on times, night on night, day on day
Truth has bounds. Error none: falling falling:
Years on years, and ages on ages
Still he fell thro' the void, still a void
Found for falling day & night without end.
For tho' day or night was not, their spaces
Were measurd by his incessant whirls
In the horrid vacuity bottomless.

6: The Immortal revolving: indignant
First in wrath threw his limbs, like the infant babe
New born into our world: wrath subsided
And contemplative thoughts first arose.
Then aloft his head reard in the Abyss
And his downward-borne fall changd oblique

7: Many ages of groans: till there grew
Branchy forms, organizing the Human
Into finite inflexible organs.

8: Till in process from falling he bore
Sidelong on the purple air, wafting
The weak breeze in efforts oerwearied.

9: Incessant the falling Mind labourd
Organizing itself: till the Vacuum
Became element, plant to rise,
Or to fall, or to swim, or to fly:
With ease searching the dire vacuity

Chap: III

1: The Lungs heave incessant, dull and heavy
For as yet were all other parts formless
Shivering: clinging around like a cloud
Dim & gluttonous as the white Polypus
Drown by waves & englobd on the tide.

2: And the unformed part cravid repose
Sleep began: the Lungs heave on the wave
Weary overweighd, sinking beneath
In a stifling black fluid he woke

3: He arose on the waters, but soon
Heavy falling his organs like roots
Shooting out from the seed, shot beneath,
And a vast world of waters around him
In furious torrents began.

4: Then he sunk & around his spent Lungs
Began intricate pipes that drew in
The spawn of the waters. Outbranching
An

An immense Fibrous form, stretching out
Thro' the bottoms of immensity raging:

5: He rose on the floods: then he smote
The wild deep with his terrible wrath,
Seperating the heavy and thin.

6: Down the heavy sunk; cleaving around
To the fragments of solid: up rose
The thin, flowing round the fierce fires
That glowd furious in the expanse.

Chap: IV:

1: Then Light first began; from the fires
Beams, conducted by fluid so pure
Flowd around the Immense: Los beheld
Forthwith writhing upon the dark void
The Back bone of Urizen appear
Hurling upon the wind
Like a serpent! like an iron chain
Whirling about in the Deep.

2: Unfolding his Fibres together
To a Form of impregnable strength
Los astonishd, and terrified, built
Furnaces; he formed an Anvil
A Hammer of adamant then began
The binding of Urizen day and night

3: Circling round the dark Demon, with howlings
Dismay & sharp blightings, the Prophet
Of Eternity beat on his iron links

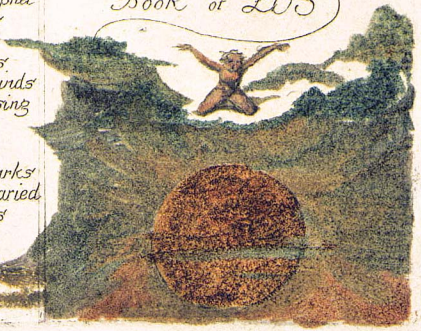
4: And first from those infinite fires
The light that flowd down on the winds
He siezd; beating incessant, condensing
The subtil particles in an Orb.

5: Roaring indignant the bright sparks
Endurd the vast Hammer; but unwearied
Los beat on the Anvil; till glorious
An immense Orb of fire he framd

6: Of: he quenchd it beneath in the Deeps
Then surveyd the all bright mass. Again
Siezing fires from the terrific Orbs
He heated the round Globe, then beat
While roaring his Furnaces endurd
The chaind Orb in their infinite wombs

7: Nine ages completed their circles
When Los heated the glowing mass, casting
It down into the Deeps: the Deeps fled
Away in redounding smoke; the Sun
Stood self-balanced. And Los smild with joy:
He the vast Spine of Urizen siezd
And bound down to the glowing illusion

8: But no light, for the Deep fled away
On all sides, and left an unformid
Dark vacuity; here Urizen lay
In fierce torments on his glowing bed

9: Till his Brain in a rock, & his Heart
In a fleshy slough formed four rivers
Obscuring the immense Orb of fire
Flowing down into night: till a Form
Was completed, a Human Illusion
In darkness and deep clouds involvd.

The End of the
Book of LOS